

The Torrance Herald

and LOMITA NEWS

SIXTEENTH YEAR—NO. 32

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SEVEN HURT IN WEEK-END CRASH TOLL

Two Accidents on Carson Claim Victims Sunday

Seven people were injured, four of them seriously, in two traffic accidents Sunday night on two widely separated intersections of Carson street, according to police reports.

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Massee, 2215 Gramercy avenue, Torrance, and their guest, J. E. Justice, were hurt when their car was struck at the intersection of Carson street and Compton avenue late Sunday night by a machine driven by Jose Rodriguez, of Long Beach. Rodriguez was severely injured.

The Massees were cut and bruised about their heads, while Mr. Justice received a cut on his hand. Both machines were badly damaged. Mr. Massee told police that Rodriguez was the offending party to the accident.

The second crash occurred on Carson street near Vermont avenue with a collision between two cars, one of them driven by K. Sawamura, Redondo, and the other by A. S. Lewis, 1631 South Los Ropias, Long Beach.

Mr. and Mrs. Sawamura and their baby were severely injured and were taken to a hospital for treatment of cuts and bruises, police reported. According to Mr. Sawamura's version of the crash, Mr. Lewis failed to make the boulevard stop on Vermont and was traveling at a high rate of speed in the center of the road when he struck the Japanese's truck on the side.

Pasadena Leads Long Beach Now

Valuation of Torrance Is \$24,594,825

Pasadena has climbed ahead of Long Beach in the total of assessed valuation, according to the assessment rolls of Ed W. Hopkins, county assessor, as reported to Sidney T. Graves, chairman of the county board of supervisors Monday.

The figures as reported today fix the total assessed valuation for Pasadena at \$222,126,425, as compared with \$212,024,615 for Long Beach. Last year the figures were: Pasadena \$177,673,800; Long Beach \$201,657,250; Huntington Park, \$24,665,840; Culver City, \$16,190,545; El Segundo, \$16,185,785; San Marino, \$22,412,790; Torrance, \$24,594,825; South Pasadena, \$20,545,945; South Gate, \$16,275,800; Whittier, \$15,144,540.

KINGLEYS AT PALOS VERDES

Mr. and Mrs. W. Harold Kingsley and family and Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Kingsley have moved from their homes on El Prado to their beautiful new residence in Palos Verdes Estates.

CHAMBER DIRECTORS ON JOB

Page Presides at First Meeting of New Board; Act on County Health Clinic, Royal Palms Purchase, Etc.

A number of important business matters were acted upon at the first meeting of the new board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce, held Monday night at the home of Harry H. Dolley.

The directors voted to authorize a definite offer to the County Board of Supervisors to use the two and three-quarter acre playground near the Legion clubhouse as a site for the Los Angeles County Health Clinic.

Supervisor John Quinn has indicated to Mayor Dennis that the county had appropriated \$35,000 for the construction of the building alone for such a clinic and declared that this sum would just be a start as the ultimate expenditure would be much greater. It was revealed at the meeting that Dr. J. L. Pomeroy, county health officer, favors locating the clinic on the site here.

Encore Co. Park Plan

It is usual that the county would locate the county library, the justice court (where the ordinary rental of a suitable court quarters would exceed \$50 per month) as well as the clinic on the site, as it is the intention of the county to make a community center of such a location.

No action is expected from the Supervisors on the offer until after the August primaries. It was reported at the meeting.

A resolution was passed by the directors endorsing the purchase of the Royal Palms property by the County Supervisors for a county park. The Torrance chamber will urge the county officials to convert the beautiful site into

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High Tribute Is Paid Don Baxter At Last Service

Hundreds Attend Rites for Well Known Citizen Monday

In the presence of relative and friends, estimated at 400 in number, impressive funeral services for Don A. Baxter, one of the city's best loved citizens, who died Saturday morning following a major operation, was held Monday afternoon at Stone and Myers' chapel.

The suddenness of Mr. Baxter's passing was a shock to his many friends and acquaintances here. The large assembly at the final rites taxed the capacity of the chapel, many being forced to remain in the foyer and outside during the course of the services.

Regret Is City-Wide

Rev. B. A. Quinn voiced the tribute to the deceased, echoing the sentiments of all who knew Mr. Baxter as a citizen, business man, Legionnaire, Rotarian and father. Never in the history of the city, it is believed, was there shown more regret and loss than was apparent during the days following Mr. Baxter's demise and interment in Roosevelt Memorial Park.

Ill with metastasizing cancer, Mr. Baxter went to a Los Angeles hospital July 30 and was operated on that same night. Complications set in and he died Saturday morning. He was 34 years old. Survivors are his wife, Mrs. Clara Baxter; a son, Don, Jr., age four and a half; his mother, Mrs. Caroline Collins; and a brother, Douglas Collins.

Pays High Tribute

Reading from part of the eighth Psalm and all of the twenty-third Psalm, Rev. Young gave comfort to those who felt the shock of the well known man's passing. The

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Intra-City Meet By Rotary Clubs

Dr. Shidler, Supervisor Quinn Speakers

Twenty Torrance Rotarians attended an intra-city luncheon meeting at the Compton Rotary club Tuesday noon. The local clubmen put on the program with Dr. George P. Shidler as the principal speaker. Dr. Shidler discussed boys' work, paying particular attention to the activities for boys during the adolescent period. President Sam Levy was general chairman.

Supervisor John Quinn was presented by W. Harold Kingsley, his publicity manager, and made a short talk. He declared that the business of running the county government was the largest individual business west of Chicago and that the five supervisors spent more money than the legislatures of 27 out of the 48 states. Mr. Quinn said the job of being a supervisor was absorbing his entire time.

Mme Teala Billini, concert pianist of Torrance, presented several solos which added to the entertainment part of the luncheon program.

Garden Club Will Meet Monday Night

Mr. G. R. Gorton, deputy agricultural commissioner of Los Angeles County, will be the speaker of the evening at the meeting of the Torrance District Garden club Monday evening at the American Legion clubhouse. Mr. Gorton will give a general informational talk on insects, plant diseases and quaran- tine regulations.

One of the features of the meeting will be a club dahlia show, in which many club members are expected to compete. Circulars containing full information as to classifications are being mailed to members this week. Prizes will be awarded to the winners.

LIGHT AND HYDRANT INSTALLED

A street light will be placed in front of the Old American Legion hall on Western avenue at 21st street by the city engineer. The illumination was requested of the council by the Church of the Nazarene. The council also authorized the placing of an additional fire hydrant on Madrid avenue, south of Maricopa place.

NEW "EDITOR" ARRIVES

Mr. and Mrs. Grover C. Whyte, 1620 Post avenue, are rejoicing over the birth of a daughter, weight 5 1/2 pounds, who arrived shortly before 7 o'clock Saturday evening, August 2. Nancy Ann and her mother are doing very nicely and are expected home within a short time.

SCHOOLS ARE EXPECTING TO SET RECORD

Three Positions Yet To Be Filled at High School Here

Approximately 600 students are expected to register at the Torrance Senior and Junior high schools when the institutions open for the year's work, September 2, according to J. H. Wood, principal.

The Torrance Elementary school is expected to open with 975 pupils, William Bell, Jr., principal of that division of the city schools.

Three New Teachers

There are but three positions unfilled in the teaching staff of the high school, Mr. Wood said today. These are athletic director, a new position of part-time physical director and a faculty member to succeed Mrs. Emel, nee Miss Lois Lingenfelter, who resigned. All of the other teachers during the 1929-1930 term have been re-elected to serve next term.

"We are expecting a material increase right at the opening of the school term," Mr. Wood said. "Last September we enrolled 576 students but we are making preparations for at least 600 this September. Our peak attendance last term was 576 students."

Fern School Enlarged

Because of the addition of another bungalow at the Fern avenue school the attendance at the Elementary school may suffer a slight loss, Principal Bell indicated. Last spring the school closed with 1025 pupils.

Mr. Wood of the high school stated that he is interviewing candidates daily for the three positions yet to be filled on the faculty and could not state just when an announcement of the successful ones would be made. "I have just received the list of eligible teachers from the city and am going to take plenty of time to make a choice for our school here," he said.

Water Supply Proves Ample for City Need

County Records Reveal Prospective Supply Is Excellent

A survey of the log of the most recently drilled well in County Water District No. 13, located at Lomita, proves that there is an ample supply of good water lying underneath this whole territory.

This information, based on county records, shows that no fear need be felt here that there is an insufficient supply necessary to supply the needs of Torrance and its prospective publicly-owned and operated water system.

Drillers of the well on Cypress avenue, less than two miles from the center of Torrance, encountered large quantities of water-bearing soil and gravel from 200 feet down to the well's depth of 600 feet, the log states. This well was completed in October, 1929, and now

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SPECIAL ELECTION TO DECIDE LONG STANDING WATER FIGHT

Council To Call for Vote of People in Original City Limits on Showdown for Publicly-Owned Water System; Franchise Action Postponed

With standing room at a premium Tuesday night, a packed council chamber heard the city council recognize 12 petitions signed by 680 residents demanding that action on the proposed franchise to the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company be postponed until the public can vote on a publicly-owned water system.

The postponement was granted by the council without a single dissenting vote. Action was immediately taken to institute proceedings for a special election on the water project.

"City Attorney Briney and City Engineer Leonard were instructed to prepare petitions to be circulated by the citizens who are determined to remedy the utility situation here by installing a publicly-owned and operated water system."

These petitions are now being circulated and will be presented to the council within a week. It was explained by City Attorney Briney that it is necessary that the petitions calling for a special election must contain the boundaries of the district to be served by the publicly owned system as set by the council with the assistance of the City engineer.

In accordance with the request

Better and Cheaper WATER Coming Our Way!

Council Hastens Issue Following Receipt of Big Petition from People

An Editorial By GROVER C. WHYTE

A dutiful City Council with its members unanimous in their response to the wishes of their constituents, did everything that was legally possible Tuesday evening to hasten the solution of the long standing water problem. Every request made by the 680 signers to the water petition, was granted. Action on the proposed franchise to the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company was postponed. The City Attorney and City Engineer were instructed to take the first steps toward calling a special bond election for a new water system. The boundaries of the district to be served by this new system were agreed upon, which is virtually the originally incorporated Torrance area, or in other words, the district now buying water from the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company.

It would obviously be unfair to bond the outlying districts such as WALTERIA, the McDonald Tract, Hollywood-Riviera, and the territory west of Madrona avenue, as these districts, although within the City of Torrance, are now satisfactorily served by mutual or privately owned water systems. The quality of water produced by these companies outside of the original City of Torrance is satisfactory and the rates charged are reasonable. Residents of the McDonald Tract, for instance, pay only 50 cents per 1000 cubic feet; those served by the Lomita water company, 65c per 1000 cubic feet, etc. It is interesting to note that the water produced by these outlying companies comes from the same general water basin as that which will supply the proposed new Torrance system.

In order to properly call a bond election, the boundaries of the district to be bonded must be definitely defined, and the State Act under which the bonds will be issued must be named; and these details must be properly set forth in a petition containing 10 per cent of the voters in the district. In agreeing upon these matters at the Tuesday meeting, the City Council made it possible for the proper petitions to be drawn and they are now being circulated.

The Council further indicated their willingness to expedite the calling of the election, by adjourning until next Tuesday instead of allowing the matter to hold over until the next regular meeting which would be two weeks from last Tuesday.

As only 10 per cent of the voters in the district are required, or about 200, it will be an easy matter to secure the necessary signatures before next Tuesday, and it is confidently expected that the City Council will at that time set the date for the bond election.

While it is necessary to pass a bond election, in all probability the revenues received by the municipal water system will be sufficient to pay off the bonds over a 30-year period and the interest as well so that there will never appear any items on the tax bills for the construction and maintenance of the water system.

We are now definitely on the road to "Better and Cheaper Water," purified water in clean, new pipes, and good pressure, day and night. Hurrah!

MERGER IDEA BROACHED TO SEVEN CITIES

Ambitious Plan Aired by Southwest Realty Board Now

Termed as "one of the most ambitious political plans in the history of the country," plans were announced by the Compton News-Tribune this week of a scheme contemplating the incorporation into one city of the present municipalities of Lynwood, Southgate, Bell, Maywood and Huntington Park and the incorporated district of Walnut Center and Cadiz.

The boundaries of the proposed city, as yet nameless, would include "more than 150,000 persons," it was reported. The plan probably had its origin from one or two sources, it is declared. It was broached by the Southwest Realty board who have stated in the past that the building trades contractors must have no less than five-city licenses to work in the territory named. Another reason seen by the Compton paper for the plan is that it is an anti-Los Angeles proposal.

City and civic officials of all of the sections involved in the proposal, met last week to discuss the plan. No definite action was taken but it was urged that the affair be kept out of "political considerations in order to keep it clear of suspicion."

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Water Election Decision Would Settle Dispute

Water Company Receiving Supply from Outside City, Report Says

If the people of Torrance vote in favor of a publicly owned water system, disputes of years standing over the right of the Dominguez Water Company to pump from its plant at Dominguez Junction for the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company may be ended.

This happy event was pointed out by the Compton News-Tribune August 1, in a story to the effect that the plant at Dominguez Junction, just south of Compton, has prospects of losing Torrance as a customer.

Are Studying "Link"

The Compton newspaper points out that "late reports indicate that the city of Torrance may choose to develop its own water system." "For some time the San Gabriel Valley Protective Association and other interests devoted to the preservation of the supply within its rightful watershed have been studying this link between Torrance and the Dominguez plant," the News-Tribune reports. "Various attempts at local action have

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PUBLIC BID TO LEGION INITIATION

Watts Post Will Have Charge of Work, August 12

A cordial invitation is extended to the public today to attend the initiation of candidates exercises as conducted by the Berle S. Cross, land Post, No. 170, American Legion, at the Legion's clubhouse Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock, August 12.

"We hope to acquaint the public with the ideals and traditions of the American Legion through this open meeting," H. M. Bailey, commander, said today.

Watts Post, No. 320, will have charge of the ritualistic work. This team will compete at the state convention in Sacramento for honors. Commander Bailey pointed out that this will be the last initiation this year and expressed the hope that a large number of candidates will take the Legion obligations at that time.

Field Trips By Council Taken

To Settle Fire Plug and Dog Kennel Matters

Members of the city council made a field trip this afternoon to settle two civic matters. First they went to look over the fire plug situation on the Clifford E. Reid property in Hollywood Riviera to see what could be done toward furnishing fire protection to residents there.

The second inspection was to be made in WALTERIA at some dog kennels operated by James Lewis at Newton and Hawthorne streets. A petition was received by the council Tuesday night signed by 108 WALTERIA residents asking that the council refuse to permit the kennels to be operated. No reason was given. The council will endeavor to learn the consensus of nearby residents to the kennels.

BE SURE AND SIGN THE NEW PETITIONS!

The water petitions filed with the City Council last Tuesday were solely for the purpose of PROMPTING IMMEDIATE ACTION. Before an election can be called NEW PETITIONS must be signed by ten per cent of the voters in the City of Torrance. These new petitions set forth the boundaries of the district and the State Act under which the bonds will be issued. Regardless of whether you signed the previous petition or not, PLEASE SIGN THE OFFICIAL PETITION BEFORE TUESDAY NOON, AUGUST 12. If one of the individuals circulating these petitions fails to locate you, please call at the office of the TORRANCE HERALD, 1336 El Prado, NOT LATER THAN TUESDAY NOON. This is important if you want quick action from the City Council.

No Reduction of Wages Expected In Steel Plant

President of Corporation Voices Sentiment of Industry

In line with the new economic program fostered by the large industries of the country, the United States Steel Corporation, which has the Columbia Steel plant here as a subsidiary, has no intention of reducing wages.

J. A. Farrel, president of the corporation, in reply to a query by an editor of Printers' Ink magazine, said recently: "Quoting my remarks at the May meeting of the American Steel Institute, I heard a steel man say the other day that wages should come down."

"I said, 'Oh, no, wages are not coming down in the steel industry; make your mind up to that. If you are going out to sell your goods and eliminate your profit and expect to get it out of the men in the mills you are greatly mistaken.'"

Along with the majority of executives of large industries, Eugene G. Grace, president of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, who is entering the Southern California territory, also announces the intention of maintaining wage scales. He said: "There has been no reduction in wage by Bethlehem Steel and none is contemplated. I believe it would be false economy to reduce wages under present conditions. Workers are contributing enough on part-time employment."

Police Protection May Be Improved

Better police protection is indicated by the council in the authorization to investigate the cost of installing call boxes in the McDonald tract, the possible placing of a light signal at the high point on the northeast corner of Madrona avenue and Redondo boulevard and the provision in the city budget for the employment of an additional motor officer.

The distance officers have to travel on their patrols is too great, according to Councilman G. A. R. Steiner, for public safety and he proposed the erection of a light to call the patrolling officer's attention so that they can call in headquarters for information as to what is wanted. Councilman Maxwell said he had included the cost of an additional officer in the police budget.

DIRECT PHONE ROUTE TO TORRANCE WANTED

At the request of a number of residents in the McDonald tract, the council voted Tuesday night to lend whatever co-operation they could toward securing direct telephone communication between the tract and Torrance. At the present time McDonald tract calls are routed through the Redondo exchange.

Building Permits Total \$6880 Here

Four Construction Jobs Are Planned

New building during the past week totaled \$6880, according to permits issued by City Engineer Leonard here.

Vicent D. Hollister will construct a five-room stucco house and garage at 1407 Almapala avenue to cost \$2230. S. Schmidt will erect a five-room frame house at 1513 Border avenue to cost \$1500. L. H. Urton will build a miniature golf course to cost \$3000 at 200 La Playa avenue in Hollywood Riviera and Bernard Othals took out a permit to build a \$150 addition to his home at 2419 Hawthorne boulevard.

Property Owners in Favor of Wider St.

Wilmington property owners on O and N streets voted Monday night to endorse the 100-foot highway for the opening of the two streets to connect with State street, Long Beach, making the connecting link in the State highway.

After a hard fought battle, they changed their endorsement from 80 to 100 feet, when, near midnight, a vote of 15 to 1 was taken in favor of the greater width. The 100-foot highway has been endorsed by the East Wilmington Property Owners. The Chamber of Commerce of that city is still reported as opposing the 100-foot width.

MR. DON ENTERTAINS

Mayor Don Findley and Mr. Bill were dinner guests of Mayor and Mrs. John Dennis last evening.

POETRY CONTEST ANNOUNCED

Poet Laureate Title To Be Awarded Best Composer in Torrance and Lomita by the Herald September 4

Poet Laureate of Torrance and Poet Laureate of Lomita! These are the titles at stake here as result of the Herald's decision to hold an original verse contest, open to all amateur poets of the two communities.

Here is a chance for all you followers of the "funny muse" or "science, from taste without pursuing it professionally or for monetary gain." Carrying out the ancient symbol of the award to an outstanding minstrel, the only prize in the contest will be the title of "Poet Laureate," thus enabling all entrants to keep their amateur standing for other contests.

Contest Closes August 28

The remaining rules are: Contestants shall be residents of Torrance or Lomita. No "foreign" bard shall be permitted to enter the contest.

Aspiring poets must submit two compositions. One shall verify a purely local event, condition or person in the public life of either Torrance or Lomita. The second poetic subject will be left entirely to the entrant's choice.

All compositions shall become the property of this newspaper and no poems sent in for judging shall be returned.

All poets must have their lyrics (Continued on Page 3)